



Avon Chamber of Commerce

Citizens & Business Working Together

The Economic Development Committee encourages industrial and commercial growth along with a commitment to our existing business and industry in Avon.

The Civic Committee is dedicated to community activities that enhance the quality of life in Avon.

Let us

develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered.

Daniel Webster

Call (585) 226-5030
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the Avon Chamber of
Commerce!

Visit us on the web:
avonny.org

74 Genesee St.
Avon, New York
14414

First, a big welcome to autumn and some excellent memories of our Citizen of the Year dinner on October 5, celebrating our 2024 Citizen, David LeFeber. We've previously reported on that celebration, but we think it bears refreshing !!

• The Avon Inn was filled with well-wishers that night, recognizing the many contributions Dave has made to the Avon community – and beyond, as Chair of the Livingston County Board of Supervisors – over the past several decades. How splendid to have his family members, especially his mother, and representatives from the Supervisors Board as well, to celebrate with us. Thanks to State Senator Pamela Helming for joining us that evening. Dave remarked that he had always wanted to farm the land – as he said, “the land..the ground...the dirt..whatever you call it...” it's about that very basic connection from humanity to the earth. He emphasized that the role of a County Supervisor highlights the fulfillment of “neighbors helping neighbors” which has guided his public service. We are grateful to his neighbor-and-nephew Collin Hayes for nominating him as this year's Citizen Awardee. We thank, of course, the many contributors to the evening's program: to Rev. Dr. Tom Taylor for offering the blessing, to those Chamber members who supported with monetary contributions, to Bob and Donna Hunn for beautiful table florals, to Jenn and Jim Krause for their lovely Avon Inn space; to Melissa Savino for those yummy cupcakes. And how great to have former Citizen Awardees with us on October 5 – including (we'll try not to forget anyone) David Henehan, the Krauses, Geri Brewer, Ginny and Bob House, Chris Quinlan (Ms. truly-helpful-with-all-the arrangements), Maureen Kingston, Kelly Cole, Bonnie Taylor-Davis, Ernie Wiard, Mary Lou Marks, Susan Pusloskie, Tom Taylor, Jeanne Fusco – and we continue to be grateful for the efforts each of them make to make Avon a wonderful place to live and work. It's always rewarding to have the winner of the Chuck McFadden Student Service Award with us, to bring us up to date on how the award helps the growth of an Avon student, and to introduce the newest awardee. Thus, thanks to Katherine Krasinski, last year's winner, for joining us and for introducing Ella O'Brien, both impressive examples of this year's “crop” of Avon student volunteers.

• On to our November 5 luncheon meeting chaired by Chamber Vice Prez Steve Harrison. This was a fine departure from past luncheons: we each ordered a sub (or specialty of choice) from T's on Genesee Street, then hop-skip-jumped across to the Avon Park Theater for our meeting. Joining Steve were Geri Brewer, Avon's new Mayor Rob Hayes, Bob Hunn, Chris Quinlan, Marinda Rucinski, Tom Taylor (who's also a past Chamber president), Bonnie Taylor-Davis, Betty Lou and Paul Tilly and from Avon Central School Amanda Schroeder digital media specialist with students Cameron Crans and Fletcher Kingsbury and high school principal Ryan Wagner, along with Bob Westfall and your secretary Barbara Herman. Thanks!! indeed to Park Theater owner Ann Younger for hosting this meeting.

• Mayor Hayes provided an excellent report on the Village activities and plans, beginning with a plant tour and two-hour meeting with Kraft's plant manager Angela Iwanski; Bill Davis, Avon's MRB engineer; State Senator Pam Helming; Livingston County Development's Bill Bacon and Maureen Wheeler; deputy mayor Amanda Hoffman. Rob reported Kraft employment figures (296, including 20 white collar staff), and extensive discussion on Kraft water usage. Avon is one of the two New York State Kraft sites, the other at Lowville which is experiencing severe after-flood problems. In addition, Village and Town Board had a recent joint meeting, signed an agreement on water usage, and discussed a prospective solar project.

• Report from high school principal Ryan Wagner included updates on modernization and upgrading on several school projects, locker rooms, tech spaces, and mechanical equipment. ACS continues to stress academic-to-employment initiatives; this includes a new Introduction to Agriculture – important to Livingston County – and Geometry by Design. The recent 5K run (or walk, as appropriate!) benefitted veterans in this county. “All sports are doing well!”, he reported, and “Scrooge”, the musical is coming soon.

• School Digital Media specialist Amanda Schroeder reports they're beginning work on the Chamber's website. We had a look at the new River Hawks sweatshirt on Fletcher Kingsbury; and information on the New York State grant available beginning with this year's 9th graders to collaborate with Genesee Community College on classes and credits.

• Bob Westfall reported for Avon Preservation and Historical Society on the upcoming presentation from New York State Preservation for the Opera Block completion. Other area winners of this award are the Canal Commons in Rochester, Elmira, and Wells Barns in Pittsford. Geri Brewer completed the APHS report, noting they'll be participating in the December Avon Holiday Spectacular; orders being taken for poinsettias for the holidays; new displays are visible in the Genesee Street windows; and for the Wesleyan Church, a new name: Riverstone Wesleyan. Hayrides featuring a live nativity will be on December 13 - 14, with a petting zoo.

• Marinda Rucinski reported for Community Bank N.A.. They've named Pete (Lathron) Antiques as Business of the Month; the bank will be adding branches on Monroe Avenue in Pittsford and Hylan Drive across from UR's new Orthopedic building. The branch recently contributed \$2,500 to Stone's Resource Center. For our Chamber, Malinda-Treasurer reported on our financial status, and discussion followed on pricing and costs associated with the Citizen dinner.

• Chris Quinlan added to the Village report: the U R Mammography mobile is in town again, after a successful visit recently to conduct breast screenings. Hoping to have a mobile Golisano Children's unit visit in the future. Look for a Holiday Happenings insert in your Penny Saver coming soon. New grant applications are being processed for “I Love NY” and “Restore New York” initiatives.

• Tom Taylor reported on East Avon Presbyterian Church's upcoming events: November 23 Holiday Bazaar, 10 am-2pm, and December 7 Cookie Festival (cookies by the pound for sale), the very same date as the Avon Spectacular!



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Continued

- Paul Tilly reported Zion Episcopal is seeking a new (part-time) pastor; the recent lasagna dinner was sold out hooray! and this is a good time to remind all of the collaboration between East Avon Presbyterian and Zion Episcopal, the repair cafe held the third Saturday each month, offering minor electrical and sewing repairs at a nominal cost (a voluntary donation!).
- Ann Younger's Avon Park Theater is having a busy fall season. The theater is a recent beneficiary of some Restore New York funds and is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. Solar panels on the theater roof power the theater lights; the apartment on this location is 100% electric. Upcoming tributes include Fleetwood Mac on 11/9 (Bob Westfall says, "live music like this is a great way to spend a Saturday night"). Check www.avonparktheater.com for the latest info on movies and live presentations.
- Thanks to Avon Floral & Gifts for taking care of all the ticket sales to the Citizen Dinner!!
- Finally, Barbara Herman reported on the year-long celebration of St. Agnes School's 150th anniversary, to culminate in October 2025. New registrants are crucial to continue this special local educational treasure. The annual "Harvest Tastings" will be at the Avon Inn on November 16.

Our next Chamber noon meeting will be on Tuesday, December 3, at the Park Theater (thanks Ann Younger)! Attending? Call T's on Main (226-7940) to order your lunch by 11:30 am, pick-up soon after and walk across the street to the Park Theater and join in on our Chamber meeting. A great "downtown" experience!

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